

Amendment to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method of modeling in a CAD/CAM environment having a defined coordinate system and employing a horizontal tree structure, comprising:

- establishing a plurality of sets of coordinate references for a model, each of the sets of coordinate references is associatively independent from the coordinate system;
- adding a base feature to the coordinate system, the base feature is associatively independent from the coordinate system and from each of the sets of coordinate references;
- adding a plurality of form features, each of the form features being added to a corresponding set of coordinate references from the sets of coordinate references such that (1) each of the form features is associatively dependent with the corresponding set of coordinate references from the sets of coordinate references and associatively independent from each other set of coordinate references from the sets of coordinate references, (2) each of the form features is associatively independent from the base feature, and (3) each of the form features is associatively independent from each other of the form features-;
- and
- wherein acting on any one of the form features will not affect any other one of the form features; and
- displaying the model with a user-friendly graphical user interface.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the acting on the any one of the form features comprises at least one of editing, suppressing, and deleting the any one of the form features.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the associative dependency is a parent/child relationship and the associative independency is a lack of a parent/child relationship.

Claims 4 - 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the sets of reference planes each comprise:

- a first reference plane positioned and oriented relative to a reference;
- a second reference plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference; and
- a third reference plane positioned and oriented relative to said reference.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 wherein said first reference plane, said second reference plane, and said third reference plane are orthogonal.

Claim 13 - 22. (Cancelled).

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 84 further includes modifying the link.

Claims 24 – 27. (Cancelled).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23 wherein said modifying the link includes substituting the form features with other form features.

Claims 29 – 82. (Cancelled).

Claim 83. (Previously Presented) A model generated by the method of claim 1.

Claim 84. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further includes generating a link between at least two of the form features.